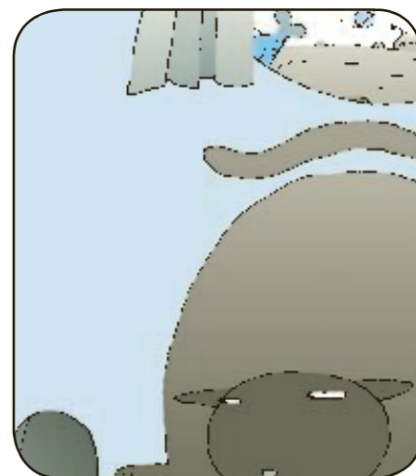


Verbals

Verbals have split personalities—they are words that are part verb and part noun or adjective or adverb. For example, add *ing* to a verb, and it can become a **gerund**—a verb used as a noun. Or add *ing* or *ed* to a verb, and it can become a **participle**—a verb used as an adjective. Or introduce a verb with the word *to* and it becomes an **infinitive**—a verb used as either a noun, an adjective, or an adverb. (See 780.2–780.4 in *Texas Write Source* for more information.)



Examples

Gerund:

Watching an expert play is a good way to improve your game.
(“Watching” is used as a noun and the subject of the sentence.)

Participle:

The cat played a **watching** game with the **confused** mouse.
(“Watching” and “confused” are used as adjectives. “Watching” modifies “game.”
“Confused” modifies “mouse.”)

Infinitive:

To watch is to wait.
(“To watch” is the subject and “to wait” is the predicate noun.)

Directions

Underline the verbals in the sentences that follow. In the space below the sentence, name the type of verbal you have found, and explain the job it is doing. There may be more than one verbal in each sentence. The first sentence has been done for you.

1. Smirking at a teacher who scolds you is not wise.

“Smirking” is a gerund used as the subject of the sentence.

2. Rewarding a dog with treats is a good training technique.

3. Trained elephants perform regularly so that they do not become restless.

4. I've always dreamed of acting in a Broadway musical.

5. I would like to fly like a bird.

6. To win the next three games is the team's goal.

7. In most sports, timing is everything.

8. Applying for a passport is a good idea even if you don't have immediate travel plans.

Next Step Write three sentences following the direction given for each verbal: (1) Use *laughing* as an adjective, (2) use *walking* as a subject, and (3) use *to play* as a direct object. Now label each verbal as either a gerund, a participle, or an infinitive. Share your sentences aloud with a classmate.